

Dr. Brian D. Gander, Superintendent

Allyce Chronister, Office Manager

FIRST WEEK BACK SETTLES IN STUDENTS AND STAFF

The past two weeks at school have proven to be a whirlwind of activity as staff rejoins in the tasks of giving the best possible education to the students of the Jewell School. The week of the 24th through the 28th gave the staff time to complete annual trainings and also receive new training and strategies to support the writing and learning processes. Writing is the schools' main instructional goal for the year and our trainings will focus on strengthening writing instruction so all students reach the state benchmarks. However, the strategies training received by faculty and classified staff are sound techniques that can be used across the curriculum. The NWRES D trainers did a wonderful job of providing good examples and building necessary skills among all staff.

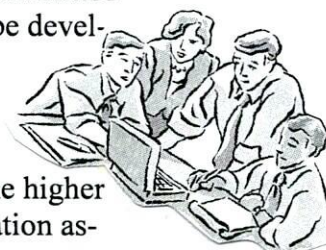
The staff also had time to set up a structure that will help define the schools' governance model. A leadership team was selected from amongst all staff to begin developing a model that opens up clear communication across the building. This team will meet bi-weekly to discuss issues and generate school wide solutions that serve all staff and students. Also formed were a number of committees that will serve to meet the various needs of, school climate, technology development, safety and wellness and lastly, of course our sunshine committee.



As parents are well aware we made some changes to the master schedule in August that we feel has maximized our daily contact with students in terms of instructional time, and started us towards meeting the school board's goal of greater diversity in advanced classes in the high school level. Although we were not able to meet all the goals we had set for the change, we did make significant headway in setting up changes that will bring us closer to more rigorous classes for our older students.

As a staff we have begun a School Climate Committee. This committee will be looking at the student handbook and our current practices in setting an appropriate teaching and learning atmosphere. It is only natural that over the course of multiple school leaders that Jewell has experienced in the past four years, that differences in interpretation of school expectations and practices arise. The School Climate Committee will work to define teacher and student expectations and communicate those to the Jewell community through a variety of groups. The Jewell Site Council (see article within), and the Jewell School Board will be reviewing what the committee establishes as common beliefs, and then finalized faculty and student handbooks will be developed. We hope to have this work completed by January 1st of 2010.

With this in mind the students returned to a campus that had a few more rules and some higher expectations of student behavior. These expectations were communicated in an orientation as-



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sembly and with classroom visits by me on the first day. For 98% of our students things have not really changed, they live up to the expectations that their parents start in the home and we hold to and reinforce in the school. For some students they will see the changes as challenges to their autonomy and rights. We understand this and will work closely with these students to help them understand that at Jewell we have a few rules that are tighter because we are a K-12 school and that the older students are models for our younger students. That is a little bit of a burden but at the same time there are many other benefits that Jewell student in grades 7-12 get that most middle and high students do not. We will practice a policy of fair but firm discipline using natural consequences and individual conferencing as our guide. Each teacher in grades 7-12 has sent home their discipline plan in their course syllabus so if you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

DISTRICT SEEKS ENGAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The Jewell School Board is looking for community members willing to take on the role of committee members in establishing the district's vision and mission statement. This committee will represent a cross section of the Jewell community and follow a process that is intended to develop a set of guiding beliefs, a school district mission and a long term vision for the district. These three elements of strategic planning are used as guides by the school board and the school staff in the daily decision making process. It is critical that we get community input that represents what you want for Jewell's students. If you are contacted we hope you will say YES! If you want to be a part of this planning process please call Allyce and give her your name and Dr. Gander will get in touch with you.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM UNDER REVIEW

As was mentioned in the first newsletter that went out to school families, the school lunch program is under review. The impact of the program on the general fund is diverting funds from our instructional and facilities needs at a percentage above and beyond customary cost for a small district. A program that a few years ago had costs in the area of \$70,000 to \$90,000 dollars is now budgeted at \$193,000.00 dollars. It will take us time to fully understand the nature of our costs and where we can make inroads. But we do understand we need to run a more cost efficient program so we can focus our revenues on the key issues of instruction, and facilities.

As this program affects families' household expenses we will go slowly in changing the practices we are currently functioning under. Our Wellness Committee will protect children's needs for balanced and nutritious meals while working with the community to find solutions. This means we will give parents in the community opportunities to speak with the school administration and the School Board before a final decision is offered for consideration and implemented.

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The changes we have put in place at this time are returning the standard and customary practice of pay as you go. Students are permitted one milk and/or juice with lunch and second helpings of the main entree are on availability. Staff and visitors have an established meal price as required by the State of Oregon. Parents are able to establish an account balance at the school and will be notified when that account balance is getting low, in advance of students running out of money. Students may not charge meals and the practice of providing a sandwich and milk will be followed if the student has no money in their account and no means to get a lunch.



Our kitchen staff works hard to provide for our students; and we believe that it is the correct way to serve our students. If you would like to join them and the Wellness Committee in their review of the lunch and breakfast program please contact Allyce so she can get your name to Dr. Gander.

FLU SEASON IS STARTING EARLY

By all news accounts the flu season is starting much earlier this year. We hope that you will choose to exercise extreme care when determining if your child should attend school. As you are well aware the H1N1 strain of Swine Flu is very communicable and a slight fever can progress quite rapidly to needing to be in bed close to a restroom.

This is one of the times we ask you to err on the safe side by keeping your child at home if in doubt to protect your child and the other kids in their class. For younger kids we would appreciate if you would review hand washing and coughing into your elbow practices to protect them and their peers for a spreading infection. We will re-teach these practices at a school and use alcohol based hand cleaners to help prevent infectious disease spread. If you have question please contact the school and speak with Joan Harding our health room staff person about any concerns you might have.

Please contact the school if you need further resources about the H1N1 Swine Flu.



JEWELL SITE COUNCIL TO BE RE-ESTABLISHED

The 21st Century Schools Act established School Site Councils as committees that review and participate in the governance of each local school. The Jewell Site Council and its by-laws have slipped away in the rotation of administration in recent years. As a district we are looking to re-establish this council as a necessary element of the parents' voice in the school setting.

The purpose of the Site Council as defined by state statute and board policy is to give parents a place to assure their concerns are heard and presented in the context of the schools' overall planning. The Site Council's primary goal is the development of the Comprehensive Improvement Plan or CIP document. This guides instructional goals and staff development practices within the school and is the instructional planning tool. The committee is also a valuable resource in the review and development of the student and staff handbooks, the district's emergency and wellness plans.

The Site Council is made up of equally balanced parents and school personnel and in many schools chaired by a parent. In smaller communities it is not uncommon for this council to struggle with the lack of parental involvement. This is mainly due to the fact that all members are voted upon by their representative groups. Teachers vote in the teacher representative, classified staff their representative and the parents their representative. The only person not voted in is the schools administrative representative.

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JEWELL SCHOOL ANNUAL REUNION

Mark September 19th on your calendar for the annual Jewell School Reunion! Diane Tiedeman is working with others to organize this annual event in which graduates of the school return to their roots and enjoy a day of reminiscing and fellowship. Call Diane if you would like to volunteer your support, or just show up on the 19th at 12:00 for lunch and desserts.



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IMPORTANT DATES

October 1st — 4:00 PM Parent Teacher Organization

Meeting (PTO) — Library

October 9th — No School — Statewide In-service Day

October 12 — Student Influenza Clinic

Mission Vision Committee Meeting

October 14th — Early Dismissal Wednesday

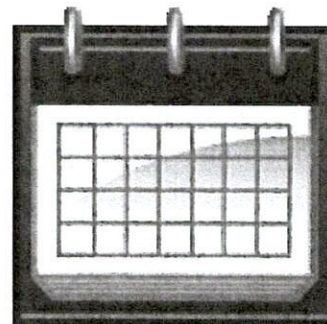
October 15th — 1/2 day School — Parent Conferences

October 16th — No School parent Conferences

October 19th — School Board Meeting

October 22nd — Math Night At Jewell School

7:00 PM Multipurpose Room

**PARENT CONFERENCES OCTOBER 15TH AND 16TH**

As we near the mid point in the first quarter teachers will have the office contact you about parent conferences. Conferences are the afternoon and evening of the 15th and all day on the 16th.

The week September 28th through October 2nd we will be sending home progress notes for each of our students. If you do not receive a note please contact your teacher to get your child's current grade status. These progress notes set the stage for the October 15th and October 16th parent conferences.

JEWEL TO HOST STUDENT FLU CLINIC

During the month of October, Clatsop County Public Health is partnering with local school districts to provide Flu Mist vaccinations to *students in kindergarten thru 5th grade*. Jewell's clinic will be held at 1:00 PM on October 12th. Flu Mist is a vaccine offered annually for seasonal influenza, *not the H1N1 (swine) flu*. Children are one of the most important sources of flu transmission in the community. School-based Flu Mist clinics are an annual event in many communities. The Clatsop County Public Health department received a grant this year to fund this clinic.

Studies show that school children vaccinated against flu have fewer illnesses, fewer absences from school, and lower rates of illness in their families during flu season. Students who will

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not be receiving the Flu Mist during these clinics can receive the influenza vaccine from their local medical provider or the health department.

Flu Mist **does not** contain **thimerosal** which is a concern for some families. Flu Mist **is not a shot**. It is a very small amount of vaccine administered as a mist similar to a nasal spray. It takes less time to administer than an injection and there is no pain. Some students should not receive the Flu Mist. Students should NOT consent to receive the Flu Mist vaccine if they have the following condition:

- Asthma
- Lung, heart, or kidney disease
- Diabetes
- Anemia or other blood disorders
- Weakened immune system
- Long-term aspirin therapy
- Guillain-Barre Syndrome (if you do not know what this is, your student as not had it)

The Flu Mist clinic is a voluntary clinic. No student is required to receive the Flu Mist. If you are not sure your child can receive the Flu Mist vaccine, please consult with your medical provider or call the health department at 503-325-8500.

JEWELL SCHOOL MISSION AND VISION COMMITTEE SET

September 14th fourteen people meet in the school library to chart the course of the Jewell School District. The committee consists of parents, students, school staff and the school board. The group appointed Able Baker as chair of the committee. The task of the committee is to set a vision and mission statement in place using the guiding beliefs of the individuals representing the school community.

The next meeting will be held as part of a work session on October 12th in the Jewell Library at 6:30.

JEWELL SITE COUNCIL TO RE-ESTABLISH

We Need Parent Help, we would like to become a member of the Site Council!!

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JEWELL SCHOOL ANNUAL REUNION A SUCCESS!

September 19th was the annual Jewell School Reunion! Diane Tiedeman worked with district staff with others to organize this annual event in which graduates of the school returned to their roots and enjoy a day of reminiscing and fellowship. We had a bout 100 people show up and enjoy an afternoon of food and cake. Diane expressed her hope that all local members of the Jewell community would begin to attend these affairs as that is one of the main reasons some folk travel so far to come to the reunion..

